

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06306 01 OF 02 121743Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDE-00 /103 W

-----121823Z 039946 /44

R 121729Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7320

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06306

DEPT PASS NRC

DEPT PASS ACDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, GW, BR

SUBJ: GERMAN PRESS COMMENTS ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S
NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: A. BONN 5929; B. BONN 6235

1. SUMMARY: MOST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS GIVE FRONT-PAGE
COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POLICY STATE-
MENT AND TO THE INDEPENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GERMAN
GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FULFILL ALL OBLIGATIONS OF
THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH
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PAGE 02 BONN 06306 01 OF 02 121743Z

THE REPORTS REFLECT SATISFACTION AMONG GERMAN POLITI-
CAL AND INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S
DECISION TO APPROVE THE LICENSES FOR THE EXPORT OF
THE ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING PLANT TO BRAZIL,
IT IS CAUTIONED THAT THE NEW US NUCLEAR POLICY MAKES
NEW CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN GERMANY AND THE US MOST
LIKELY. FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMEN ON APRIL 11 DENIED

A "NEWSWEEK" STORY ON AGREEMENTS IN THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' GROUP LIMITING SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. END SUMMARY.

2. "DIE WELT" (RIGHT-CENTER) SPECULATES THAT THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE US AND GERMANY MIGHT BE CONTINUED "BELOW THE WATER" WHICH IN TURN MIGHT LEAD TO A FURTHER DELAY IN THE CONTRACTED DELIVERY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE US TO GERMANY. "DIE WELT" OBSERVES THAT THE DECISION OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE APPLAUDED BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD WHICH HAD DISPLAYED FEAR THAT THE DISCUSSION ABOUT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MIGHT EVOLVE INTO SOME KIND OF NEO-COLONIALISM. THE PAPER REPEATED THE FRG OPINION THAT AN EFFICIENT SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO INCORPORATE AS MANY NATIONS AS POSSIBLE, WHILE THE US POSITION CALLS FOR "AN EXCLUSIVE NUCLEAR CLUB" WHICH WOULD MEAN A TOTAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS.

3. HEINZ HECK, DIE WELT'S CORRESPONDENT WHO IS VERY CLOSE TO FRG GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL SOURCES, EMPHASIZED THE POINTS IN PARA 2 AND QUOTED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT NON-PROLIFERATION IS BEST ACHIEVED BY PROMOTING MULTINATIONAL NONDISCRIMINATORY TIES IN NUCLEAR MATTERS. HECK NOTES THE FRG-BRAZIL-IAEA CONTROLS ATTACHED TO THE FRG-BRAZIL AGREEMENT "...ALTHOUGH (BRAZIL) IS NOT A SIGNATORY OF THE NPT." HECK WARNS THAT CARTER'S POLICIES WILL CAUSE MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 06306 01 OF 02 121743Z

NATIONS TO GO IT ALONE SINCE CARTER MUST SEE THAT THE "ATOM GENIE IS OUT OF THE BOTTLE AND WON'T BE EASILY RECORDED." HECK CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT TRUDEAU'S SIMULTANEOUS HALT OF NATURAL URANIUM DELIVERIES HAS INCREASED NERVOUSNESS. U.S. AND CANADIAN ACTIONS ARE BEING COMMENTED UPON IN MANY ARTICLES AND THE "SIMULTANEOUS" NATURE OF THESE POLICIES IS LIKELY TO RECEIVE FURTHER COMMENT IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

4. "KOELNER STADTANZEIGER" INDEPENDENT - COMMENTS THAT, NO MATTER HOW CONVINCING THE GERMAN ARGUMENTS ARE, THE US GOVERNMENT WILL INTERPRET THE GERMAN DECISION AS A DELIBERATE AFFRONT. THE PAPER CONTINUES THAT GERMAN ASSERTIONS ABOUT ITS DETERMINATION TO CONTROL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION LOSE SOME OF THEIR CREDIBILITY BY THE APPROVAL OF THE EXPORT LICENSES TO BRAZIL. KA EXPLAINS THAT THE GERMAN ARGUMENT THAT A FURTHER DELAY WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE LEAD TO A

SERIOUS SITUATION IN THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, COULD BE
COUNTERED BY THE FACT THAT THE US HAS SACRIFICED THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A PROSPEROUS,ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE
TECHNOLOGY AND THUS HAS ABOLISHED SEVERAL THOUSAND

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06306

JOBS IN ORDER TO HALT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE
PAPER EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THE RESPONSIBLE GERMAN
POLITICAL AND INDUSTRIAL FORCES -- INCLUDING THE
PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION AND THE LABOR UNIONS WHO
APPLAUDED THE GOVERNMENT DECISION -- UNDERSTAND THE
SIGNS SET BY CARTER AND IMMEDIATELY BEGIN A FUNDAMENTAL
REVISION OF THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS.

5. "DAS HANDELSBLATT" (DUSSELDORF, CONSERVATIVE
BUSINESS JOURNAL) TRIES TO EXPLAIN THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER'S PLAN TO STOP REPROCESSING AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A PLUTONIUM ECONOMY IS SUITABLE FOR THE US WITH

ITS HUGE DEPOSITS OF NATURAL URANIUM, BUT IT CERTAINLY
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PAGE 02 BONN 06306 02 OF 02 121741Z

WOULD NOT APPLY TO OTHER INDUSTRIAL AND - EVEN MORE -
LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS. THE PAPER PICKS UP THE
ARGUMENT -- DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN REF A, THAT A
ONCE-THROUGH CYCLE WOULD INEVITABLY FORCE MOST NATIONS
INTO INCREASING THEIR REPROCESSING AND FAST BREEDER
EFFORTS.

6. ON ANOTHER TOPIC MOST PAPERS REPORT THAT A
FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN DENIED A "NEWSWEEK" STORY
ABOUT AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF
THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' GROUP NOT TO TRANSFER SENSI-
TIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED
THAT SUCH A BAN WOULD NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE NON-
PROLIFERATION POLICY OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

7. WITH THE END OF THE FOUR-DAY EASTER HOLIDAY (REFB)
AND DIMINISHING COVERAGE ON THE BUBACK ASSASSINATION
FURTHER COMMENT ON NUCLEAR TOPICS CAN BE EXPECTED.

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